



Baltimore  
Metropolitan  
Council

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **“MEET THE PRIMES” EVENT ENCOURAGES NETWORKING FOR SMALL AND MINORITY BUSINESSES**

**BALTIMORE, MD (October 8, 2015)** – The Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC) and Baltimore County will host the seventh annual Meet the Primes networking event, which connects small and minority-owned businesses with prime contract bidders, on **Wednesday, October 14**. The event will take place from 8 a.m. until noon at the Maryland State Fairgrounds, located at 2200 York Road in Timonium.

The event is free and open to those interested, though [registration](#) is encouraged and will be open through **Tuesday, October 13**. Those who wish to be listed in the event booklet should register before **Thursday, October 8**.

“We expect a very personable, low-pressure networking event. It’s a chance to talk to people, learn what they are working on and present credentials, to see if there is a business fit,” said Robert Ball, of Baltimore County Public Schools. “It’s a great event.”

Meet the Primes is a great stepping stone for small and minority-owned businesses to make connections, find work and grow. The prime bidders who will attend the event represent millions of dollars in annual contracts for many industries in the Baltimore region.

More than 450 people from small and minority-owned businesses are registered to attend the Meet the Primes event. Likewise, about 120 prime bidders from government, public education, private companies and other entities will be there to make connections.

“Not only will prime bidders be there, but they’ll be there with the attitude that they want to meet business owners and learn about their business. That way, small and minority-businesses have the best chance of presenting their qualifications and being received,” Ball said.

Those who register for the event will be contacted beforehand to schedule one-on-one match-making sessions through the Maryland Washington Minority Companies

Association. Those attending are encouraged to bring capability statements and references with them.

Meet the Primes is made possible through the partnership between BMC's Baltimore Regional Cooperative Purchasing Committee (BRCPC), Baltimore County, Baltimore County Public Schools, Baltimore County Public Library, the Community College of Baltimore County, Baltimore City, the City of Annapolis, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, and Anne Arundel, Carroll, Harford, Howard, Montgomery and Prince George counties.

For more information about Meet the Primes, contact Robert Ball by email at [rball@bcps.org](mailto:rball@bcps.org) or by phone at 410-887-4334; or contact Carla Tucker by email at [ctucker@baltimorecountymd.gov](mailto:ctucker@baltimorecountymd.gov) or by phone at 410-887-3119.

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*The Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC) works collaboratively with the chief elected officials in the region to create initiatives to improve the quality of life and economic vitality. BMC, as the Baltimore region's council of governments (COG), hosts the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board (BRTB), the federal metropolitan planning organization (MPO), and supports local government by coordinating efforts in a range of policy areas including emergency preparedness, housing, cooperative purchasing, environmental planning and workforce development.*

*BMC's Board of Directors includes the Baltimore City mayor, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford and Howard county executives, a member of the Maryland State Senate, a member of the Maryland House of Delegates and a gubernatorial appointee from the private sector.*